MCCC
MID-CITIES COMMODORE CLUB Dallas/Ft. Worth

MCCC NEWS September 1988 Issue 9

METROPLEX COMPUTER CONFERENCE

Harold Williams, MCCC

METCOM*88, the Mid-Cities Commodore Computer Club, annual Metroplex Computer Conference is scheduled for October 29, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Arlington Convention Center. Admission is free and the public is invited to attend. This year METCOM will be bigger than ever. Commodore 64, 128 and Amiga computers will be featured along with related peripheral hardware and software. Computer music, graphics, and business presentations will be featured both at individual booths and in the theater. Other activities will include game presentations, tutorials, and dealer demos. Currently these area dealers plan to participate (listed alphabetically) : Amazing Computers; Carrollton, Budget Computers; Arlington, Computer Age; Dallas, Computer Skills; Euless, Intercomputing; Grand Prairie, Metropolitan; Richardson, and Software Terminal; Fort Worth. Developers expected include Microbotics and Dumler Enterprises. SCOPE will have a table to answer questions concerning membership in the Dallas Commodore user group.

A new event this year will be the MCCC sponsored Flea-Market booth. The Flea-Market will feature "experienced" (used) software and hardware for the Commodore family of computers. MCCC members that would like to participate in the Flea-Market should contact Rick Meyer (292-6387), Fred Noble (838-5459) or Harold Williams (483-0537) for details.

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From the Editor's Desk:

Vanessa Bennett

MCCC NEWS EDITOR RESIGNS BILL RAECKE APPOINTED NEW EDITOR- CONGRATULATIONS BILL!!!

I have recently gone from a non-working individual to one who works in excess of 50 hours per week. Needless to say, something has to change!

At the September Board of Directors Meeting, held August 27th, my resignation was accepted and Bill Raecke was appointed MCCC NEWS Editor by the Board.

I have definitely enjoyed creating the nine issues of the MCCC NEWS this year, but regretfully can not continue. I want to thank my staff: Cheryl Howard, Okley Moss, and John Malmstrom, their help was greatly appreciated. Thanks also goes to the Chapter Reporters who have done an excellent job - keep up the good work. A sincere thank you goes to Laura Clemons, who passed along tips from her experience in the past with the MCCC NEWS. My husband, Don Bennett, also deserves a big THANK YOU for the patience, encouragement, technical advise, and some typing along the way, particularly in my first issue when my wrist was in a cast!

NOW, for your information, Cheryl Howard will continue to be Assistant Editor and will be responsible for editing the C64/128 articles and reviews. All such material should be sent to Cheryl by either the MCCC bulletin boards or STARTEXT. Bill Raecke should receive all other articles and advertisements.

New C-64 Library Disks

Harold Williams, MCCC

There are several new special disks available from the library that feature the super musical and graphic capabilities of the C-64. A collection of SID utilities, a stereo SID player, and a collection of new SID music are featured on 3 new disks that let your 64 show off its tremendous musical capabilities. The SID Utility Disk includes two SID Player programs that allow you to play both regular and enhanced SID music, SID ORGANIZER to maintain records of your collection of SID music, SIDLISTER which will print SID music code to the screen or printer, SID TUNER allows you to adjust the SID voice settings as the music is played, SID WRITER which lets you create stand alone musical messages. A few SID music files are included on the SID Utility Disk to allow you to experiment with the various utilities. A second disk named STEREO SID has the amazing STEREO SID PLAYER. This player allows true stereo music with 6 voices. The disk includes complete instructions. The third music disk is a collection of SID music from the May SIDFEST held in Richmond, Virginia. The music includes classical, popular, jazz and rock selections.

A collection of 4 disks make up CAD 3.0, a full featured drawing package for the C-64. The first disk contains the actual drawing package, the three support disks include two special character sets, and a collection of symbols for drawing electronic circuits. CAD 3.0 comes with documentation on the disk. The list of features fills over a dozen pages. If you've been looking for a really slick drawing package, at a reasonable price (free), CAD 3.0 may be just the program you need.

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What's New at Babbage's..... For the C=64/128

Cheryl Howard, MCCC

On the bargain shelf at Babbage's is a package called 2 on 1 by Mastertronic which features the games Street Surfer and Hollywood or Bust. These two games give the C=64 game player a chance to play some good old-fashion games without spending a fortune. Street Surfer puts you in the unlikely position of riding your skateboard down the highway trying to pick up Coke bottles and snatching a drink from passing motorists who just happen to come along holding a bottle of Coke out the window. Not all drivers are friendly though and some of the drivers try to run you off the road or worse yet, they try to run over you. Splattered all over the road is not the best position to be in either in this game or in real life. Then there is always the occasional oil slick that will throw you for a loop if you don't jump over them or go around them. Not only do you have to watch out for hazards, but you must look for empty Coke bottles along side of the road and try to collect as many as you can to deposit in the recycling bank and collect an extra 20 points. As you can imagine, that is the object of the game, to collect the most points.

Hollywood or Bust unfortunately is just a modern version of the Keystone Kops. Our hero Buster Baloney, an actor, must find 5 hidden Oscars somewhere in a movie studio. Buster is pursued by ghosts and security guards during his search for the Oscars. Armed only with an endless supply of custard pies, Buster must find all the Oscars before his lives are used up. This game was one which I only played once before giving it up as hopeless. Buster is more of a bumbling idiot than a hero and as I stated earlier, reminded me more of Charlie Chaplin and the Keystone Kops, except they were funnier. Street Surfer is the better of the two games, and the whole package is only $5.94.

Another low priced game on the shelf this month is Monster Trivia by Cosmi. This game's graphics are cute and sound effects are exceptional for a C=64 game, but don't let the simplicity fool you. The questions are not all that easy. In fact, some are absolutely hard enough to stump the average game player, unless you are an avid trivia player. There are six categories to choose from: SHOW BIZ, SPORTS, SCIENCE, HISTORY, THE ARTS, and GRAB BAG. The game is played in two rounds, with three questions per category in each round. Each question is worth $10, $20, or $30 in the first round and $50 each in the second round. If you miss a question you loose money. At the end of round one, the player with the least amount of money gets eaten by the monster. The remaining players go on to round two. The player with the most money at the end of round two wins the game. Although this game is more satirical than most trivia games, don't take it lightly. Only the most dedicated trivia player will be able to answer all the questions.

Datasoft presents Cosmic Relief, a fun quest seeking type of game. Select one of five adventurers from around the world and set out to find Professor K. K. Renegade. Many years ago, Prof. Renegade predicted that an asteroid was on a crash course for Earth and was travelling through space at an alarming speed. No one believed him, so he just disappeared. Now world scientist have discovered that Prof. Renegade was right and you must find him and convince him to construct an anti-asteroid deflector to save the earth. You are also instructed to collect various objects along the way to be used in the construction of the anti-asteroid deflector, but these objects are not at all of the scientific variety. They are the most unusual mixture of object around and you really don't know what is actually needed. Luckily you have a large team of naive bearers to carry all the objects you collect along the way. This game is controlled by joystick or using the keyboard, and is one of those games that can be ruined if too much is said about it. Tiffany and I thoroughly enjoyed playing this one, so don't let the "cute" cartoon package fool you.

For those of you who saw the movie "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom", Mindscape has released its version of Indy's adventures through the Mind Caverns, the Mind Tunnels, and the Temple of Doom. In level 1 (the Mind Caverns), Indy must free captured children, while fighting Thugee guards, snakes, bats and Mola Ram, the High Priest while searching for entrances to the Mind Tunnels. Here Indy races down the tracks fighting more guards to finally reach the Temple. Now the real task begins -- recover the Sankara Stone. Actually, there are three stones, so you have to go through the three levels two more times. Even though it is a little repetitious, it does the movie justice.

For you C=128 users, I had an opportunity to use a 128 for a couple of days and looked over Better Working's Word Pro 128. Although I didn't get to play with it much, it is a good word processor and is the 128 version of Word Pro for the 64. Included in the program is File Pro 128 which is a database. Also good for word processing is Paperclip III. If you try to purchase PCIII, it is packaged as a 64 program, but the package contains a disk for the 128. Both versions contain a spell checker and a terminal mode on the disk. Being limited in the time I had access to the 128, I didn't get to fully test these products, but I was impressed with what I saw. With so little commercial programs available for the 128, these are very good programs.

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The Phoenix PFD-135 External Disk Drive

Henry Colonna, AMI Report

I jumped on the opportunity to buy a used Amiga 1000 several months ago, and when I did everyone I knew who owned an Amiga was telling me to buy a second disk drive along with the computer. I kept thinking "nah, Commodore sells them with one drive, it'll be OK." Within two hours of actually using the computer, I was desperate for a second drive. However, I had spent just about all the money I had, and simply could not afford a second Commodore disk drive.

I did some shopping around, and noticed that a company named Phoenix was selling a less-expensive alternative to Commodore's external disk drive. When the drive arrived, I was disappointed to find a ribbon cable on the back instead of a regular cable. Everyone in the store was snickering behind my back that this drive used "older ribbon cable" technology, which supposedly produces more RFI interference than normal cables. However, in real-life use I have had no problems with the disk drive, and the next shipment of drives had normal cables, and every shipment since then. The drive is smaller than the Commodore drive, though it is a bit longer. It is very thin and short, making it physically attractive. After several months of use I have found that it runs admirably under all conditions, with one potentially serious drawback that I will describe in a second. During multitasking, the drive gets noisier and seems to rattle, but is usually a lot quieter even after heavy use than the Commodore drives. It was a bit disconcerting during my first multitask to hear the drive rattle louder, however, it is performing normally besides the sound. The potentially serious drawback of this disk drive is the way that the "busy" light on the drive works. It does not stay on steadily, for some reason it blinks during disk accesses. The blinking does not become a problem except during DOS operations or during ARC operations. Often the drive light will shut off for a good second or two and then come back on again. Removing the disk during that period when the drive light is off will result in a trashed disk. I trashed many disks at first before I realized what was happening with the drive light. Fortunately they were all recoverable in every way with the shareware program "DiskSalv", but the operation of the drive light may be a serious drawback. I have noticed that the Commodore drives behave occasionally in this fashion, but the Phoenix does it much more often. When I was pondering this review I was considering giving it a "damning" review because of the problem I mentioned above. However, upon careful thought I reconsidered. Many people trash many disks with the Commodore disk drive at first and if anything would learn their lesson quicker. Yes, I know, that's bordering on warped logic, but what can I say. Overall, because of the $20 to $40 savings and the 1 year warranty (compared to Commodore's 90 day warranty) and flawless, quiet performance I would give the drive a cautious nod. If saving that amount of money is of little consequence, get the real thing.

AMIGA CENTRAL CHAPTER

Tim Flynn

Well, by now anyone who read last months article knows not to ask me for tips on either stocks or horses. (Although I do have this great real estate deal...)

CHAPTER NEWS

We might not have had doves bursting forth from the monitors but they did have some interesting displays on them. Thanks to all those who showed us some of the Desktop Publishing programs available on the AMIGA. The August meeting was a first-class event with two presentations. Our friends at Precision Software across the Atlantic sent their man Tim over here to entice us with the first public announcement of an upgrade to Superbase Professional. It's called Superbase 4 and is due out in about two months. He also informed us that they will be opening a support office here in Irving, Texas soon. This is the kind of support that has built such enthusiasm for the AMIGA. The second event of the night was a rendition of musical possibilities from our resident Russian-rocker. With half a stage full of equipment he gave a very detailed presentation of the sound capabilities of the AMIGA, including some original songs he developed. Here again we got a taste of the future when he demonstrated an advance copy of a music synthesizer program called Texture. There seems to be an interesting development occurring this year in that not only are we getting more active involvement from our members, but that their presentations are among the best we've had. Definitely a tradition that we need to foster. Hope to see everyone at the next great meeting (no that's not a prophesy, more of a wishful belief).

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World Class Leader Board	Bubble Ghost
Epyx	Titus
4x4 Off Road Racing	Fire and forget
California Games	Michtron
Impossible Mission II	Temptwood
First Row	Microillusions
Prime Time	Turbo
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Better Dead Than Alien	FTL
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It's somewhat like IRON (remember the part where those 2 bikes ride on a grid and try to get into each other's way ... ?

Rainbird
Starglider II 29.75
Well, an 'all new improved' Starglider...

Titus
Off Shore Warrior 28.50
Put Dirty Harry in a fast boat. 'Get out of my way, punk...' I've got the biggest gun and I know how to use it...

Amiga By The Loop
Brent Wood

The Amiga is NOT another game machine! (But it sure plays nice games.) The quality of "entertainment" software for the Ami continues to rise along with the quantity. A small sampling of these (all right, two of 'em) were demonstrated at the last meeting by our new chapter Vice President, David Owens, who has taken over for Jody Reimers. David had a chance to show his stuff when not one, but two, planned presentations didn't pan out. He was calm, cool and collected when he called the chapter secretary (me) to help out with a game demo. OK, so we both winged it a little. No problem! I showed EA's F/A-18 Interceptor and he showed Mastertronic's Feud. Nothing was thrown at us, so we got away with it. Next month is Telecommunications time. Some new and some old. If you're not on a board you can still come and see what's happening. Questions and answers will no doubt abound. We will meet at 7:30 pm at the Richland Hills Church of Christ, room 208 on Sept. 13, 1988. Call an officer for directions and bring a friend. Special thanks to Rick Schulz and last month's "ghost writer" for filling in for me in my absence. I owe you.
(Editor's Note: Glad to have you back!)

CHAPTER NEWS

ARLINGTON/GRAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER
JANET HAMM

Twenty-seven people attended our August 16th meeting. President Glen Herring welcomed two new members and five guests. He also reported that there were 12 members at our Saturday Workshop at the Grand Prairie Public Library. Glen suggested that everyone on bulletin boards check them for new Public Domain software to be submitted to our club library.

Word processing programs was the topic of discussion for the evening. Short descriptions and sample printouts were given to the members from several word processors.

Herschel Gibbs started started with FontMaster 2. Then Speed Script was presented by Aaron Lozier. Information on PaperClip and Word Pro 3 were Cont.p. 12

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ARLINGTON/GRAND

PRAIRIE Cont.

presented by Bill Schearer. Word Writer was presented by Basil Kaskabas and Bank Street Writer was presented by Jessica Wilson. MCCC President, Harold Willimas talked about Visa Write and guest, Ed Carr - President of SCOPE in Dallas, discussed Word Star. Our last presentation was by Brad Dumlar about The Write Stuff.

Thanks for a job well done by all. We appreciate the information. It gave us a good idea of what is available in word processors and what each will do.

See you all September 10th at the Saturday Workshop - Grand Prairie Public Library at 1:30pm and on the 20th for our evening meeting at 6:30pm at the Arlington Community Center.

Forth Worth Chapter

Mary Louise Hagemeyer

Our first meeting in the new location was a success, and the library on Hulen looks like an excellent place for our chapter.

CHAPTER NEWS

Bob Krause demonstrated Paperclip Publisher, which is a desktop publishing program more versatile than Print Shop or the GEOS packages.

Ellen Triplett reviewed disk #420 from the club library. This is an educational disk with games in the English and ancient history departments. In addition to the games, the disk contains an explanation of the DOS wedge which would be helpful to anyone who hasn't been using the wedge utilities.

Jim Marshall reviewed disk #358. This is an astronomy disk, with information about the planets, phases of the moon, meteor showers, and more. The program on the back of the disk tracks satellites on a world map.

At our September meeting, club president, Harold Williams

NOTICE !!!

WE HAVE A NEW

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will discuss databases and demonstrate Superbase. We'll also have a disk review and a few minutes of BASIC. The meeting will be Saturday, September 10, at 1:30 pm in the auditorium of the Southwest Regional Library at 4001 Library Lane off Hulen Street. Call one of the Chapter officers if you need directions.

CHAPTER NEWS

Ft. Worth Night Chapter
Bill Jones

The Night Chapter met August 15th and had a very interesting program presented by Bruce Umbreit on how he uses his Amstrad computers in his business. Bruce pointed out the advantages of using a larger machine as your needs grow. Even though the equipment demonstrated was not Commodore the points made about speed and convenience when using the hard disk drives and faster clock speeds were very relevant. Bruce also pointed out some things to look for and avoid in software for this equipment. Next month Danny Dunn is planning to present a program on a 3-D drawing program which he has been working on in machine language. The meeting will be September 19th, at the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church. The address is 5910 Black Oak Ln., at 7:00 PM. Visitors Welcome!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
METCOM 88

OCTOBER 29 9:00 - 5:00
ARLINGTON CONVENTION CENTER !!!

H. E. B. CHAPTER
Robyn Wilson

At the meeting on August 20, Bob Krause from the Fort Worth Day Chapter gave a presentation about the Paper Clip Publisher. This is a desktop publishing program that produces graphics and text on a page far better than the Print Shop. It is a simple program to use for creating newspaper like graphics and reports. Plan ahead before you start working on a design because you could be changing out diskettes for the next two weeks. This is a very Cont. P. 14

H. E. B. NEWS Cont.

excellent but involved program to use. With this program you can become a clever editor.

At the next meeting on September 17th there will be a discussion on several different types of word processors. Jack Slay will be coordinating this program. A reminder again that on October 29th, Metcom '88 will be held. At the November 19th meeting , nominations will be taken for chapter officers for the next year (88-89). The offices on a Chapter level are as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Reporter, Treasurer, and Librarian.

Glenn Schneider will not be returning as Chapter President as he will be attending college full time and working full time. He is attaining his Batchelor's Degree in Real Estate and City Planning, and his Masters Degree in Public Administration and Management. Cheryl Howard is looking for someone else to take on the position of librarian. She feels that she has had a lot of fun for the last 3 1/2 years and would like to let someone else have a chance at this office. Cheryl is also acting as a representative for Bruce Umbriet, our club dealer for Gemini printers. Our treasurer, Fred Noble, is moving on to the Amiga by the Loop chapter when he finishes his year here at HEB.

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573-8573 JERRY ST GEORGE

WHAT'S MORE???

Besides the articles found in this month's MCCC NEWS, you will find the following articles on the MCCC BBS and STARTEXT!!!

**INTERCEPTOR Hints, Tips, and Fun stuff for the Amiga-Compiled from various sources including personal experience of Mike Mantino and Kevin Stevens - Reprinted from Ami Report

**Aztec C68K Source Level Debugger (SDB) for the Amiga by Drew Lucy - Ami Report

** Video Titler 1.1 for the Amiga by John R. Vig reprinted from Tuna

**The Hewlett Packard PaintJet by Dan Bonachea - Reprinted from Tuna

**EMPIRE - a new strategy game from Interstel through Electonic Arts - by ELDERSIGN of GEnie -reprinted from Ami Report.

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September

1988

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				1	2	3
4	5 TAKE IT EASY	6	7	8	9	10 FT. WORTH DAY AR./G.P. WRKSHP 1:30PM Read details in Chapter News Call President
11	12	13 AMIGA LOOP R.H. CHURCH OF CHRIST Richland Hills 7:30pm 2nd Tues Rick Schulz 281-3996	14	15 AMIGA CENTRAL Community Ctr. Arlington, TX 7:30pm 3rd Thur. Bill Raecke 465-2014	16	17 H. E. B. Hurst Civic Ctr. 1:30 3rd Sat. Glenn Schneider 540-1021 MCCC NEWS DEADLINE
18	19 FT. WORTH NIGHT St. Elisabeth Epis. Church 7:00pm 3rd Mon. Bill Jones 295-8637	20 ARL/GP Community Ctr. Arlington, TX 6:30pm 3rd Tues. Glen Herring 572-0489	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS THE 1ST, BE THERE

MID-CITIES COMMODORE CLUB INFORMATION

THE MID-CITIES COMMODORE CLUB is a non-profit organization devoted to the collection and dissemination of computer knowledge, to the encouragement of computer education and to the use of Commodore computers in the home, at school, and in business. The appropriate and legal use of all types of software is encouraged by this club.

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Our meetings are open to all. Membership dues are $20.00 a year and entitle the member to a monthly mailed copy of the MCCC NEWS, the club newsletter, library copying privileges, attendance at any or all chapter and club meetings as well as participation in the club-sponsored classes. An additional $12.00 authorizes club members access to the MCCC ASCII and Graphics Bulletin Boards. Dues are payable for one year in advance.

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